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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 39% Partly sunny Sensex 82,344 | Nifty 25,342 | Gold 1,58,247 | Silver 3,58,315 | Dollar 91.99 | Euro 110.08 | GBP 126.79

WALK THE LINE

To ensure they don't neglect their duties, govt hospital doctors barred from treating in-patients at private hospitals; outpatient consultations can go on, but with riders

PAGE 2

FEEL ALIVE

Lalbagh Lake restored using science-led nature-first methods, boosting dissolved oxygen, controlling algae, enhancing biodiversity, and improving ecological balance

PAGE 5

As usual, it is the migrant workers, who have to leave. This time around, it is the notices issued for Special Intensive Revision that have created panic, forcing at least 9,400 workers to return to their hometowns from Bengaluru

DROP ALL YOUR WORK, RUN TO SECURE RIGHT TO VOTE

Reasons given in notice: Address discrepancies, absence from earlier electoral rolls, frequent relocation

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

More than 9,400 migrant workers from West Bengal have left Bengaluru in recent weeks following uncertainty surrounding notices issued for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, according to the Karnataka Bengali Kalyan Samiti, formed by and for West Bengal-based workers in Bengaluru.

The workers, many of whom are employed in construction, domestic work, factories and the informal sector, said the lack of clarity on the verification process and the short timelines mentioned in the notices triggered anxiety and forced them to return to their home districts. Most of those who left belong to Nadia and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal. Workers reported that they were asked to appear for verification within days, failing which their voter records could be marked as doubtful or incomplete. With no clear information on how long the process would take or whether their presence was

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> **"Citizens of West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have some respite because their governments are battling it in the Supreme Court while the Karnataka government seems least bothered to protect the right to vote**
>
> — Vinay Sreenivasa, an advocate and activist

Loo blues

Audit exposes sad state of public toilets: 95% surveyed unusable by disabled, 0 toilets for transgenders across 21 wards; 71% unsafe for women

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Bengaluru's public toilet infrastructure is riddled with serious concerns due to extreme neglect. While the majority of public toilets are not suitable for persons with disability, the city's sanitation infrastructure has serious gaps in safety, hygiene, transparency, and sustainability.

The sad state of affairs of public toilets has been brought to light by an audit of 38 sanitation spaces across the city, conducted between November 2025 and January 2026.

The outcome of the audit shows that while 95% of the total toilets audited are unusable by persons with disability, the city has no transgender toilets across 21 wards. Moreover, while only 45% of these toilets were found fully functional, 92% lack usable ramps, and a whopping 71% were found unsafe for women.

Additionally, while all 38 toilets surveyed were found to be dependent on water tankers, 82% of these facilities do not issue a receipt while users are charged.

The audit was conducted by Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party through local area sabhas. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, states that public toilets must be accessible, barrier-free, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Endless beats

Indiranagar SOCIAL, the neighbourhood café-bar known for its culture-led music programming, will host the Bengaluru debut of ENDS & MEANS. Designed as a groove-led, dance-focused experience, the night centres on music that keeps the floor moving and the energy flowing. **Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: January 31, 8 pm**

02 Weekend vibes

Indian Craft Brewery presents Saturday Night Live ft Vishnupriya Ravi, an electrifying evening of live music featuring the acclaimed vocalist, known for her powerful stage presence and soulful renditions across genres. **Where: Indian Craft Brewery, near Manyata Tech Park; When: January 31, 8 pm**

03 Rap it up

Atta Galatta is hosting a 'Hippity Hoppity Get Off My Property', a comedy rap show by MC Hammersmith and No Pressure Improv. MC Hammersmith will

be performing original hip hop comedy tracks and improvised freestyle rap comedy based on audience suggestions. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 30, 7 pm**

04 Music magic

The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli brings back Wild West Fridays, a celebration of live music, easy conversations and soulful evenings. With layered vocals, Rajni & Adrian will be bringing together blues, pop, jazz and folk in their set. **Where: The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar; When: January 30, 8 pm**

05 Battle within

Pratibimb Theatre Company brings its play God's Lioness to Bengaluru this January after shows in Delhi and Gurugram. The 80-minute production retells the story of Mahabharata from Draupadi's perspective, focusing on choice and inner conflict. **Where: MAHE, Yelahanka; When: January 29**

Strong dose of discipline for doctors who skip service

In view of rising concerns over patient neglect, government issues clarification barring govt doctors from treating in-patients at private hospitals along with strict regulations on OPD care

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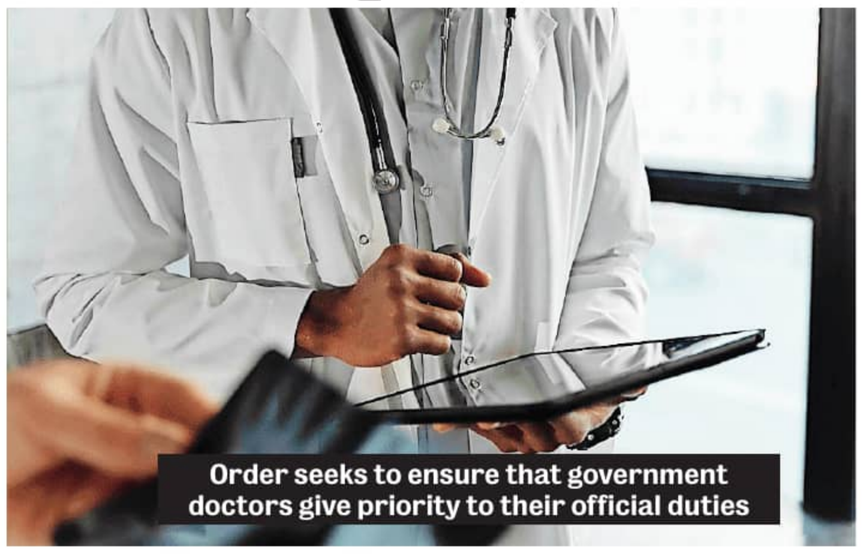

Order seeks to ensure that government doctors give priority to their official duties

The Karnataka government has drawn a clear line on private practice by government doctors, banning them from treating in-patients at private hospitals while allowing out-patient consultations under strict conditions. The clarification, issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department on Wednesday, seeks to ensure that public hospital services are not compromised and that government doctors give priority to their official duties.

In its order, the government stated that while existing rules permit doctors in government service to undertake private practice, such activity must not interfere with their responsibilities in public hospitals. However, it observed that private treatment of in-patients often requires continuous medical attention, which can adversely affect the delivery of services in government facilities. The need to maintain uninterrupted care for patients admitted to public hospitals has been cited as a key reason for prohibiting in-patient treatment in the private sector.

The government noted that several instances of neglect of patients in government hospitals have been flagged in the past, some of which allegedly resulted in deaths. These concerns have been raised by statutory authorities, including the Lokayukta, prompting the government to review the existing framework governing private practice by government doctors. The order emphasised that public service must take precedence over private engagement, particularly in a sector as sensitive as healthcare.

The clarification also draws from the recommendations of the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission, which had advocated stricter regulation of private practice to ensure accountability and improve the quality of care in public hospitals. The government pointed out that similar restrictions are already in force in other states such as Kerala, where private practice by government doctors is limited to out-patient services and permitted only under tightly controlled conditions.

Under the revised norms, government doctors may continue private practice only for OPD cases, and that too strictly outside official duty hours. Such practice must not disrupt or delay their regular responsibilities in government hospitals. Further, doctors are permitted to practise privately at only one private clinic or hospital, and the details of this arrangement must be formally declared to the government in advance.

A senior official said, "The order makes it clear that any violation of these conditions will be treated as misconduct. Doctors found breaching the norms will face disciplinary action under the relevant Karnataka Civil Services Rules, apart from any other action permissible under law. The government has stressed that the clarification should be read in conjunction with existing government orders regulating private practice, rather than as a standalone directive."

Officials said the move is aimed at striking a balance between allowing limited private practice and safeguarding the interests of patients who depend on government hospitals. By clearly prohibiting private in-patient care, the government hopes to ensure better availability of doctors in public facilities and improve accountability in the healthcare system. The clarification has come into force with immediate effect.

Phoenix Mall of Asia hosts Republic Day events in Bengaluru

Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bengaluru, marked India's 77th Republic Day with Republic Rhythms at the Plaza and Fan Park. The event included a flag unfurling by Colonel JB Singh, a Republic Run with over 2,000 participants, and an Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) entrepreneurs exhibition. Colonel JB Singh, commissioned in 1997, is a recipient of the Sena Medal, Bar to Sena Medal, and the Shaurya Chakra for his service in counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir. The Republic Run featured a 5K run followed by fitness activities including burpee and plank challenges, fitness bingo, AMRAP routines and flexibility challenges.

The AWWA Entrepreneurs Exhibition and Sale featured 24 women entrepreneurs. Ritu Mehta, Centre Director, Phoenix Mall of Asia and Marketing Director – South, said, "Republic Day reminds us that unity, service, and collective responsibility lie at the heart of our national identity. At Phoenix Mall of Asia, we see our role as creating spaces where these values can be experienced collectively. Through Republic Rhythms, we brought this to life by honouring the armed forces and supporting women-led entrepreneurship." **— BMB**

Coalition urges EC to halt process in Karnataka

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mandatory, many chose to travel back home at their own expense. Several migrants cited issues such as address discrepancies, absence from earlier electoral rolls and frequent relocation for work as reasons mentioned in the notices. In many cases, only one member of a household received the communication, adding to confusion among families.

The sudden movement has disrupted livelihoods, with workers losing wages and employers facing labour shortages. Many migrants said they would consider returning to Bengaluru only after receiving clear guidance on their electoral status and the verification process.

"The constitutionality and legality of SIR is still being argued at the Supreme Court. The apex court has also recently questioned the Election Commission (EC) with regard to Electoral Registration Officers being told to scrutinise citizenship documents, mark suspected non-citizens and report them to the Home Department, while the reasoning for SIR to be conducted was portrayed to be rapid urbanisation and migration initially. These kinds of contentious issues are still being argued at the Supreme Court and it is unfortunate that the EC is still hurrying with the implementation of SIR," explained Vinay Sreenivasa, an advocate and activist. "What's more shocking is that they're making up rules as they go. For example, in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, those who have been included in the draft list have also received notices," he added. "Across the nation, the gender ratio has fallen (admitted by the EC itself) because of the very design of SIR — linking it to the 2002 rules or having to fill a form, both of which are not mandates by the Representation of the People Act or anywhere in the Constitution," he said, highlighting that the disastrous design has left women from across communities, castes and faiths excluded. "At Independence, thanks to Baba Saheb Ambedkar, we were able to achieve universal adult franchise but the SIR threatens this very principle," he said.

He further expressed his disappointment over the lack of action by the Karnataka government over the issue. "Citizens of West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have some respite because their governments are battling it in the Supreme Court while the Karnataka government seems least bothered to protect the right to vote," he said.

Letter to CEO

A coalition of civil society organisations under the banner 'My Vote, My Right' has raised serious objections to the manner in which voter roll mapping is being carried out in Karnataka, urging the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to suspend the exercise until the Supreme Court decides on pending challenges to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

In a letter dated January 28 addressed to Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar, the coalition expressed "grave concern regarding the ongoing preparations for the Special Intensive Revision in the state", arguing that the mapping process is being conducted in a "hasty and opaque manner". The organisations said they were compelled to seek information directly from Booth Level Officers (BLOs) across Karnataka after the CEO's official website failed to provide details on the mapping exercise.

Citing a media report that claimed 61% of voter roll mapping had been completed by mid-January, the coalition said the lack of transparency was deeply troubling.

According to the letter, BLOs have not been issued any formal instructions and are relying on "instructional videos shared in WhatsApp groups." The coalition warned that such an approach could lead to "misuse of power, arbitrariness and inaccuracies." The group also flagged concerns over what it described as a flawed rationale behind the mapping process, particularly its reliance on linking voters in the 2025 electoral roll to entries in the 2002 rolls. Calling the SIR a "proven exercise of mass disenfranchisement" in other states, the coalition demanded that the Election Commission halt the process in Karnataka until the Supreme Court rules on its validity and implement safeguards to ensure transparency.

CRIME FILES

Two held for burglary; stolen jewellery recovered

The Subramanyapura police have solved a house-breaking and theft case after 11 months from the date of offence with the arrest of the second accused who had been lodged in Chitradurga Jail since August in connection with a murder case. Two individuals have been arrested in connection with the case and 350 grams of gold jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh has been recovered.

According to the police, the incident occurred on February 23, 2025, when the victim, after locking his house in Uttarahalli, AGS Layout, left with his family to Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, to attend the Kumbh Mela. When he returned home on February 26, 2025, he found the main door broken open and gold jewellery, silver coins and Rs 50,000 cash stolen from a bedroom cupboard. Based on the complaint, a case of house-breaking and theft was registered.

On March 23, 2025, police apprehended one accused identified as Ganesh (34) on Doddabidarakallu Main Road under Peenya police limits. During interrogation, he revealed the involvement of an accomplice. He was remanded to police custody for eight days. The accused disclosed that parts of the stolen jewellery had been pledged at a jewellery shop in Peenya, leading to the seizure of 200 grams of gold on March 26, 2025. He was later remanded to judicial custody. Ganesh, a plumber by profession, has been involved in 21 criminal cases registered between 2015 and 2025 across multiple police stations in the city.

The second accused identified as Sridhar (35) a garment factory worker, was absconding and was found lodged in Chitradurga Jail. —BMB

Police nab couple stealing jewellery from individuals in crowds

The KR Puram police have arrested a couple for allegedly stealing gold ornaments from women in crowded public places such as weekly market, religious fairs and public buses, and have recovered 398 grams of gold jewellery worth around Rs 60 lakh.

According to the police, the case came to light after a woman residing within the KR Puram Police Station limits lodged a complaint on April 4, 2025. She stated that her gold jewellery was stolen during a visit to the Mariyamma Temple at Devasandra.

Following the registration of a theft case, the police launched a detailed investigation. Acting on credible information and technical inputs, a police team traced and arrested the accused couple Gayathri (33) and Srikanth (42), both residents of Kamasandra in South Bengaluru, on December 23, 2025, near a bus stand in Kammanahalli.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and revealed that they operated along with three associates from outside the state, targeting women by mingling with them in crowded places. The police said a portion of the stolen gold had been pledged at a bank in Hebbagodi, while some jewellery was sold at a shop in Mysuru. Based on their confession, the police recovered the pledged jewellery and later seized 40 grams of gold from the Mysuru shop on January 23, 2026. The accused have been remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

Major inter-state drug racket busted

The Amruthahalli police have arrested 10 persons, including seven from other states, for allegedly trafficking banned narcotic substances and seized contraband and assets worth about Rs 4 crore, including 3 kg of hydro ganja, 50 grams of MDMA, 500 grams of charas, 500 LSD strips, 10 kg of ganja, two cars, 14 mobile phones and Rs 36,000 in cash. The arrests followed a coordinated investigation that, for the first time, linked multiple drug cases operating across different parts of Bengaluru.

City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said preliminary information suggested that the individuals were peddling drugs in different parts of the city. For the first time, investigators were able to link the cases, prompting a focused probe into the source of the drugs and the entire supply chain, from procurement to distribution and 10 members were arrested. Of the accused arrested so far, two are from Karnataka, one from Delhi and seven from Kerala. Based on information shared by them during interrogation, police are pursuing further leads and continuing the investigation. All the accused have been produced before court and further investigation is underway. —BMB

Domestic help arrested for theft

A 29-year-old domestic worker was arrested within hours of a complaint being filed at Jeevan Bheemanagar Police Station for the alleged theft of gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 1 crore from the villa of an American couple in East Bengaluru.

The accused has been identified as Chandan Roul (29), a native of West Bengal. According to police, Roul was employed as a domestic help at the villa through a private placement agency and had been working there for the past six months. Payments for his services were made directly to the agency.

Police officials said the theft had been committed on January 19 and the accused continued reporting to work to avoid raising suspicion. He was allegedly planning to return to his native place and intended to sell the stolen jewellery outside Karnataka.

Police officials said the case involved coordination with the United States Embassy. The accused was produced before a court on January 22 and remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

Two arrested for car theft; vehicles worth ₹2.31 crore recovered

Govindapura police have arrested two men in connection with the theft of nine cars and a two-wheeler, recovering vehicles worth Rs 2.31 crore. The Police Commissioner said that all nine cars, originally stolen from Delhi, were first sold in Bengaluru and later sold in Hyderabad, with forged documents created to facilitate the transactions.

The case came to light on January 4, 2026, when a resident of KG Halli reported that his two-wheeler, parked on 10th Cross, had been stolen. Acting on the complaint, police arrested a local accused near Indira Canteen on January 5, recovering the stolen two-wheeler. During interrogation, he revealed that his accomplice, based in Delhi, stole cars and handed them over to him for resale.

Following this lead, police apprehended the second accused at Golconda, Hyderabad, on January 14. The accused have been identified as Syed Nizam (37) and Mohammed Muzaffar (26).

The arrests helped detect 130 two-wheeler theft cases in Bengaluru and eight car theft cases across Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Police are still tracing the owner of one remaining vehicle, with the investigation ongoing. —BMB

Duo arrested with ganja worth ₹60 lakh

The Thalaghattapura police have arrested two persons for allegedly selling prohibited narcotic substances and seized 78.45 kg of ganja worth Rs 60 lakh from their possession.

According to the police, on the night of January 23, 2026, officers received credible information that ganja was being sold illegally in a vacant plot at Kariyanapalya in Banashankari 6th Phase, within Thalaghattapura Police Station limits. Acting on the tip-off, a case was registered under the NDPS Act and a police team conducted a raid at the spot, during which one accused was apprehended.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to procuring ganja at a lower price and selling it at a higher rate for profit. Police seized 2.45 kg of ganja and a mobile phone from him. He also revealed the involvement of an accomplice. Based on information given by the first accused, police conducted another raid and arrested the second accused, from whom 76 kg of ganja and a mobile phone were seized. The accused have been identified as Dhanush BD (27) and Raghavendra (30). Both accused were produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

HC reiterates consequences for voyeurism

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday declined to quash an FIR against a man accused of attempting to secretly photograph a woman while she was changing clothes inside a trial room at a textile store in Bengaluru.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, while refusing to interfere at the pre-trial stage, made strong oral observations on the seriousness of the allegation. "The woman gets into a trial room and you shoot! How can any clothes store be safe for a woman if you go on shooting through the curtains? Case is of voyeurism. We will not spare such people," the judge remarked, adding that even allegations of hidden cameras in trial rooms create an unsafe environment for women.

The court refused to exercise its inherent powers to quash the proceedings against the accused. The petition was ultimately withdrawn, with liberty granted to pursue other legal remedies. —BMB

Real-estate mafia thrives amid ruins

Ground reality of Kogilu encroachment site is that helpless people lost houses, but middlemen and land mafia carry on

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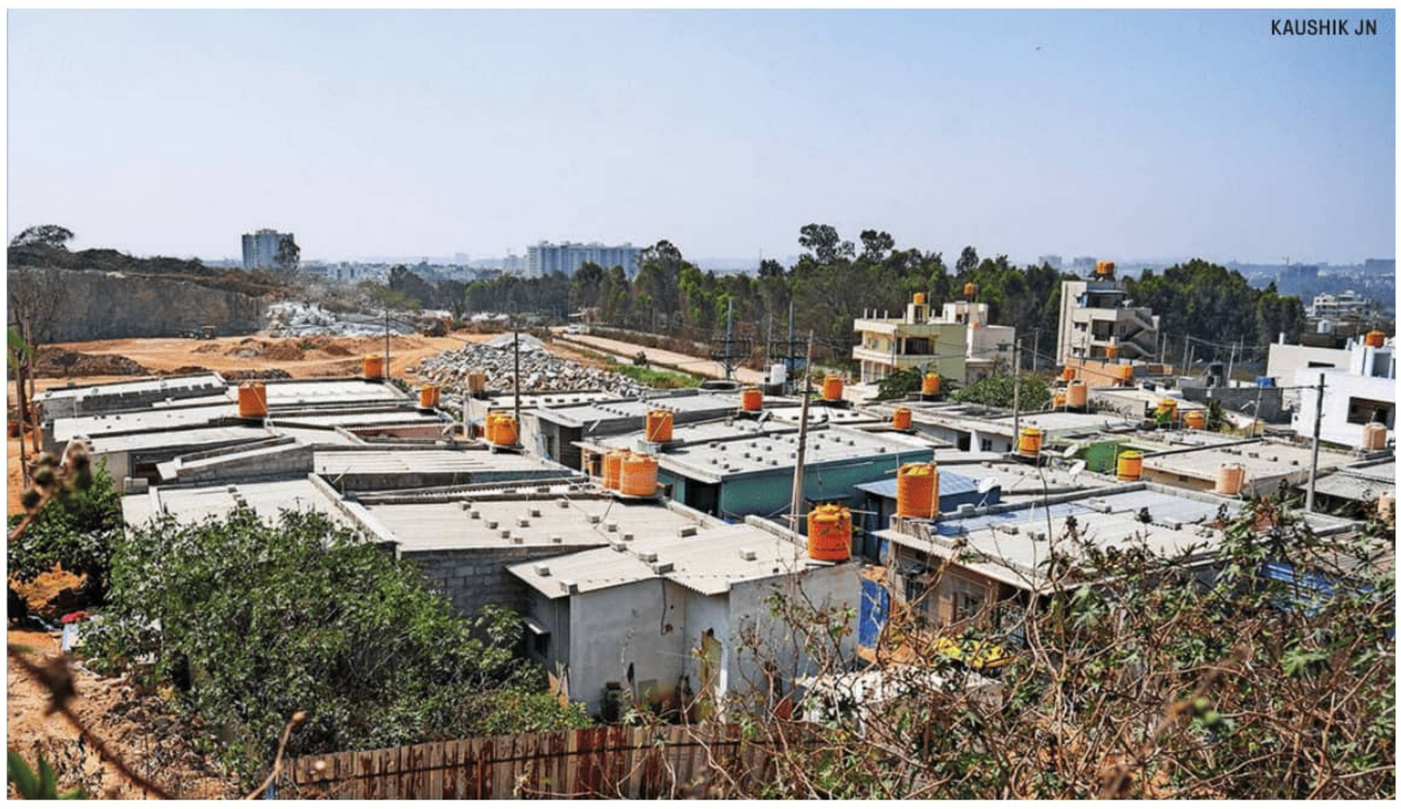
KAUSHIK JN

The demolition of around 160 makeshift sheds attracted national attention and put the Karnataka State Government in a poor light. However, it turns out that if the authorities had acted on time, these hapless people would not have become victims of the land mafia and middlemen. Documents show that a few activists and villagers had submitted a letter years ago to the authorities stating that a Hindu Burial Ground situated on Kogilu and Srinivaspur border was encroached by some people.

The Tahasildar of Yelahanka had taken measures to remove the structures and to fence the burial ground. On July 6, 2018, the tahasildar announced that more than 40 structures were cleared. However, some 'social workers' and 'activists' formed a layout and allotted sites to gullible people to construct homes. In the process, the real estate mafia even removed a few tombs and also removed a portion of the fence. The villagers had lodged complaints with the revenue and BBMP authorities then. The villagers have also submitted a letter to BESCOM Assistant Executive Engineer on July 23, 2025 requesting to disconnect electricity to the structures put up illegally.

A few people who got residential sites allotted on Fakir Street aka Fakir Colony sold the land to others and shifted to vacant land near the quarry. In no time, the vacant land ended up transforming into a colony. Many mistake this to be the Fakir Colony, which is actually situated a few 100 mt away.

Meanwhile, some of the activists, who took active part in alerting the authorities on encroachment, blame the authorities for registering a case against one of them. They said the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) assistant engineer had lodged a complaint with Yelahanka Police against a few people for allegedly forming a layout on the quarry land, belonging to BSWML, and selling it to the victims. They said that BSWML punished the whistle-blowers. "The BWSML Assistant Engineer included the name of Robin, who took the lead to organise protests against the encroachment of government land," said A Suresh, a social activist.

As for Fakir Colony, no building here is affected. In fact, some of the shelters at Fakir Colony have transformed into two-floor buildings. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management

Houses have come up on the quarry land and even on the burial ground in this area

Limited Assistant Engineer Santoshkumar Kaddi, who lodged a complaint with Yelahanka Police, said that he noticed the encroachment of the quarry land, meant for constructing a biomethanation plant, while constructing the compound wall. "As of now, a PIL is filed in the High Court. We will go ahead with evacuating remaining settlers as per the honourable High Court's direction," said Kaddi.

On lodging a complaint against one of the whistleblowers, the assistant engineer said that law will decide whether or not he is one of the accused.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Shoddy road

HMT Main Road

The pipeline road connecting Ayyappa Temple to HMT main road near BFW, where underpass work is ongoing, has long been deteriorated and lacks proper asphalting, posing danger to motorists.

Withering green

Goraguntepalya

Plants meant to enhance greenery near the busy Goraguntepalya junction opposite CMTI are now withering due to poor maintenance.

Path pitfall

Yeshwanthpur

The service road connecting Govardhan Theatre to Yeshwanthpur (near Metro) is full of potholes and lacks proper asphalting.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gangadhara.N S/o Nagaraja.S, resident at No.126, 19th Ward, Vidyanagar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-561203, stating that, my name is Gangadhara.N and my father's name is Nagaraja.S as in the SSLC marks card. But, I have amended my name to **Gangadhar.N instead of Gangadhara.N** and my father's name to **Nagaraj.S instead of Nagaraja.S.** Hereinafter, I will deal with the name of Gangadhar.N S/o Nagaraj.S. I certify that all the above information is correct and true. Therefore, I have sworn before advocate and notary Prakash. C, Doddaballapur, vide affidavit dated 23.01.2026.

ATMs to dispense smaller currency notes soon

In a move expected to ease the long-standing problem of change, banks will soon begin dispensing Rs 10, Rs 20 and Rs 50 notes through ATMs, alongside existing Rs 100, Rs 200 and Rs 500 denominations. Several banks have already started technical upgrades to ATM machines, keeping in mind strong demand for smaller notes in rural and semi-urban areas. Sources said the initiative will bring relief to the public and small traders who still rely on cash for daily transactions, despite growing digital payments. Acting on recent Reserve Bank of India guidelines, banks nationwide have been directed to increase low-denomination currency availability through ATMs. The phased rollout of upgraded machines is now underway. Officials said the measure aims to improve convenience and reduce dependence on informal money exchange channels nationwide. — BMB

Free cycle parking at metro stations

In a move to promote last-mile connectivity and ease traffic congestion, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has decided to offer free bicycle parking at nine Namma Metro stations across the city. Officials said the initiative aims to encourage cycling among commuters, with tenders invited till February 9, after which a maintenance agency will be finalised. Currently, Metro stations charge Re 1 per hour and a maximum of Rs 10 per day for cycle parking. The free facility will be introduced at stations with higher bicycle usage, while parking charges will continue at other stations. The nine stations include Mysuru Road and Baiyappanahalli on the Purple Line; Madavara, Peenya Industry and JP Nagar on the Green Line; and BTM Layout, Electronics City, Ragigudda and Jayadeva Hospital on the Yellow Line. — BMB

Farmers oppose Circular Railway land acquisition

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Small and marginal farmers from Singanayakanahalli, Thimmasandra, Bettahalasuru and surrounding villages are opposing acquisition of their agricultural land for the proposed Circular Railway project. They want the railway authorities to cancel the proposal for laying a new railway line between Rajanukunte, near Yelahanka, and Bettahalasuru since it is unscientific and of no use.

Farmers of Bettahalasuru staging protest against acquisition of their lands for Circular Railway project

BG Nanjundappa Kadathanamale, State Secretary of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, said many small and marginal farmers would lose livelihoods if land is acquired for the proposed railway line. He noted most farmers are financially weak and questioned why authorities prioritise this project while several other railway projects remain pending for years.

Farmers complain that some of the proposed railway projects have been pending for quite a long time. They said the railways proposed a 44-km new line project between Chikkaballapur and Gauribidanur at an estimated cost of Rs 367.77 crore. Another new project between Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam and Chikkaballapur is also pending and nothing has been done to commence the construction work.

Farmers said the proposed new line between Bettahalasuru and Rajanukunte would hurt small and marginal farmers and destroy trees, including a century-old banyan and mango groves. They argued Rajanukunte lies just eight kilometres from Yelahanka Railway Junction, making a new line unnecessary. They demanded railway authorities fix existing underpasses at Bettahalasuru, Shettigere, Channahalli, Chikkasanne, IVC Road and Kodi Manchenahalli, which have become obstacles for villagers, farmers, cattle and farm vehicles, and ensure safer, smoother rural connectivity immediately for affected communities.

The railways proposed the new line between Bettahalasuru and Rajanukunte to act as a shortcut for trains between Doddaballapur and Chikkaballapur/Devanahalli, allowing them to bypass the heavily congested Yelahanka station. The cost of the project is estimated at Rs 248 crore.

In December 2025, the government issued updated gazette notifications for land acquisition in villages across Yelahanka Taluk, including Bettahalasuru and Rajanukunte. Survey notices were issued for roughly 29 acres of dry and agricultural land. The bypass will cross the Heelalige-Rajanukunte (Kanaka Line) of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project which is expected for completion by December 2026.

Science and nature restore Lalbagh Lake's ecosystem

Lalbagh Lake restored using science-led nature-first methods, boosting dissolved oxygen, reducing nutrients, controlling algae, enhancing biodiversity, and improving overall ecological balance

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Spread across 30 acres in Bengaluru's Lalbagh Botanical Garden, Lalbagh Lake had fallen into severe ecological distress, showing foul odour, pale-yellow water, eutrophication, and dangerously low dissolved oxygen levels. In December 2024, a long-term ecological restoration project was launched, not as a beautification effort but as a science-driven recovery mission.

Combining nature-first approaches with biological and mechanical treatment systems, the initiative tackled core ecological failures, achieving a sustainable revival of the historic waterbody.

Lalbagh Lake exhibited clear signs of ecological decline driven by nutrient overload, organic build-up, and poor water circulation. These factors resulted in low dissolved oxygen levels, high biological and chemical oxygen demand, foul odour, eutrophication, and increasing algal growth. Laboratory tests confirmed pale-yellow, foul-smelling water, indicating severe biological stress.

Despite protected heritage status, Lalbagh Lake required a science-based restoration. HandsOnCSR by That's Eco Foundation led efforts to improve dissolved oxygen, enhance water quality, reduce organic load and nutrients, control algal growth through nature-based treatments, boost biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, implement sustainable low-maintenance interventions, and enhance ecological, visual, and experiential value for visitors.

To combat oxygen depletion and stagnation, submersible and surface aerators were installed across the lake to boost dissolved oxygen, prevent anaerobic foul conditions, enhance microbial activity, and improve water circulation. Combined with floating gardens, the system ensured better oxygen in plant root zones, supporting nutrient absorption, biological treatment, and overall lake health.

Continuous monitoring ensured plant survival, microbial colonisation, and system stability across lake

Gurunandan Rao, Founder and President of HandsOnFoundation, said the project commenced in December 2024 and was completed by September 2025, with an overall duration of approximately seven months, followed by ongoing monitoring.

"The project adopted a science-led, nature-first approach, combining biological treatment systems with mechanical support to address the lake's underlying ecological challenges," he said.

Floating gardens, or constructed wetlands, were installed on UV-stable, non-toxic floating platforms with native wetland species. Functioning as living biofilters, they absorb excess nitrogen and phosphorus, support microbial biofilms that degrade organic matter, reduce algal growth by limiting nutrients, and provide partial shading to regulate surface water temperature. These systems operate continuously and passively, enhancing water quality while preserving the lake bed and maintaining Lalbagh Lake's natural character and ecological integrity.

To combat oxygen depletion and stagnation, submersible and surface aerators were installed across the lake to boost dissolved oxygen, prevent anaerobic foul conditions, enhance microbial activity, and improve water circulation

Rao highlighted that restoring Lalbagh Lake faced unique ecological, operational, and institutional challenges within a historic, highly regulated urban green space. Persistent urban hydrological pressure caused continual nutrient-rich runoff, carrying sediments, organic matter, and pollutants from roads, built-up areas, and landscaped zones. Restoration was designed to function despite these ongoing external inflows

Another major challenge was critically low dissolved oxygen levels, recorded at just 1.4 mg/L during baseline testing. The lake's size and depth variation, spanning 30 acres with a maximum depth of around 3.5 metres, required careful placement of floating gardens and aeration systems to ensure uniform circulation and oxygen distribution.

An Evening of Devotional and Spiritual Music
IRB INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPERS LTD HIGHWAY TO GROWTH
॥ पंचम निषाद ॥

Content narrator (in Marathi and Hindi) : Dr. Dhanashree Lele
Mandar Puranik - Tabla | Dnyaneshwar Sonawane - Harmonium | Sukhad Munde - Pakhwaj | Sunil Kumar - Flute | Suryakant Surve - Additional Rhythms
Sunday, 1 February 2026, 5.30 pm onwards
Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Tickets available on bookmyshow Few Seats Reserved

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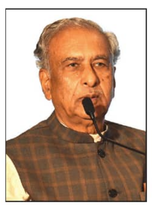
FARNAZ

Basavaraj Horatti Praises Vijay Karnataka's Initiatives | VK Excellence Honour for 16 Achievers | Unsung Contributors Driving Bengaluru Districts' Development

VK Honours Unsung Achievers Making a Difference

The Bengaluru Rural division's 'VK Excellence and Honour' programme, held at a private hotel, features Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, actors Pruthvi Ambar and Dhanya Ramkumar, Vijay Karnataka and Bengaluru Mirror CEO Deepak Saluja, and Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli presenting awards and honouring 16 achievers from diverse fields.

HORATTI PRAISES VK'S SOCIAL OUTREACH



Vijay Karnataka has consistently stood with people from all sections of society, demonstrating strong social commitment through its diverse programmes, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said. Speaking after presenting the VK Excellence and Honour awards at the Bengaluru Rural division event organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror at a private hotel in the city, Horatti said VK had earned recognition as a widely read and trusted daily across social groups. He noted that initiatives such as the 'Super Star Farmer' honour had encouraged the farming community, while its coverage focused on issues closely linked to everyday life. Vijay Karnataka, he added, went beyond reporting by following up on issues until solutions were found, thereby playing a meaningful role in public service.

FOCUS SHIFTS TO DEVELOPMENT BEYOND BENGALURU

Many achievers in the districts surrounding Bengaluru are playing a key role in the state's progress by building enterprises and generating employment, said Vijay Karnataka and Bengaluru Mirror CEO Deepak Saluja. Speaking at the event, Saluja said it was encouraging that the state had moved from ninth to third place in the country in terms of GDP contribution. He stressed that development should extend beyond Bengaluru, noting that neighbouring districts also needed focused growth. The government, he said, was encouraging investments in these regions. With Bengaluru's boundaries now extending up to Tumakuru and Ramanagara, and with better transport and connectivity, several new industries were beginning to take shape in these areas, he added.

STATEWIDE APPRECIATION

VK continues to receive strong and positive feedback across the state, said Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli. Weekly features such as Bodhi Vriksha have been well received, and the newspaper consistently organises diverse programmes each year. While the government cannot address every social need, Vijay Karnataka has stepped in with initiatives such as providing expert guidance to reduce exam stress among children. Farmers leaving rural areas due to declining agricultural profits are being recognised and encouraged through honours like the 'Super Star Farmer' award. "By highlighting issues from across the state and reporting news relevant to young readers, the newspaper has earned widespread trust and appreciation. It continues to acknowledge and celebrate those quietly serving and achieving behind the scenes", the editor added.

VK EXCELLENCE & HONOR
DISTRICTS AROUND BENGALURU

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Vijay Karnataka has always stood with the Kannada film industry. Achievers rarely think about themselves. Vijay Karnataka works to recognise such selfless achievers.
– Pruthvi Ambar

"I am proud to be part of this special programme. It is really wonderful that achievers are identified and honoured."
– Dhanya Ramkumar

HONOURING UNSUNG HEROES

Vijay Karnataka does not recognise only prominent achievers but also consistently honours those working quietly behind the scenes. VK has undertaken numerous initiatives that instil values in the younger generation. The prestigious newspaper covers stories related to farmers, students, workers, and people from all walks of life, providing uninterrupted service across the state and highlighting achievers from remote corners. For instance, a report featured a woman in Navalgund who has been cleaning five to six temples for 32 years, bringing her selfless service to public attention.
Such initiatives have established VK as a newspaper deeply committed to the common people. The Excellence Honour awarded through this programme is considered even more prestigious than many state and national awards praising the newspaper's efforts.

What AWARDEES said

"Being recognised by Vijay Karnataka has boosted my confidence. The programme was organised very well. Such acknowledgement encourages us to aim higher and make a bigger impact in education."
– Ajaykumar D., President, Shineford International School, Sarang Academy, Tumakuru

"Thank you to Vijay Karnataka. This is a wonderful programme. The award has given more encouragement to our work and inspired us to continue working in the health sector. Congratulations to everyone who supported this initiative. Recognition like this motivates us to serve the community with even greater dedication."
– Dr Hemavathy V. G., Doctor, Aishwarya Infertility & Endoscopy Clinic, Kolar

"Being recognised for our achievements by Vijay Karnataka has given us immense happiness. The newspaper should organise more such programmes. It also inspires young entrepreneurs like me to strive for excellence."
– Ranjith Gowda T.N., Young entrepreneur, Doddaballapur

"I am happy that the prestigious Vijay Karnataka newspaper has recognised the service of running a small hospital in a taluk centre like Tiptur and honoured me with this award. I dedicate this honour to my parents and the people of Tiptur. Awards like these reinforce our commitment to provide better healthcare to the community."
– Dr. Madhusudan B.G., Doctor, Vaibhavi Multispeciality Hospital, Tiptur, Tumakuru

"Achievers who worked quietly behind the scenes have been recognised and awarded. This honour will enable me to do more work in the future. May Vijay Karnataka continue this initiative in the coming days as well. Such appreciation inspires sustained efforts towards innovation and growth."
– H.M. Nagesh, MD and CEO, HMN Tech, Channapatna

"We are very happy to be recognised and honoured. I thank the Vijay Karnataka team. This has given us greater responsibility and inspired us to work for the good of society. Recognition motivates us to take on bigger projects and contribute more meaningfully."
– A. RaviKumar, Entrepreneur, Farmer & Social Worker, Chickballapura

"Vijay Karnataka has earned appreciation through its special programmes. This award has further inspired our work. It encourages us to maintain high standards and serve with sincerity."
– N. Deepashree, Secretary, Arivu International School, Tumakuru

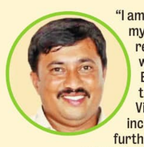
"Vijay Karnataka is doing commendable work by specially honouring achievers working behind the scenes. May more such unique programmes be organised. Today's programme was very well planned. Recognition like this brings the spotlight to unsung heroes."
– Dr. Rudrayya M Hiremath, Founder Principal & Chairman, Indian Public School, Turuvekere, Tumakuru

"Our work has been recognised with the VK Excellence Honour by Vijay Karnataka. This programme has increased our responsibility further. We hope this motivates others to contribute selflessly to society as well."
– N. Paramesh Navile, President, Akila Bharatha Veerashaiva Lingayath Mahasabha, Hassan & Class 1 Contractor, Tiptur, Tumakuru

"We have been involved in various service activities for many years. Vijay Karnataka recognising our service and achievements with an award has brought us happiness. It inspires us to continue serving with commitment and passion."
– Kalpana T. Anand, Social worker, Doddaballapur

"After rendering long service in the teaching profession and receiving district, state and national level awards, it is very heartening that Vijay Karnataka is recognising behind-the-scenes achievers like us. This encouragement will inspire many more educators to dedicate themselves to teaching."
– N.B. Sarojamma, Retired Headmistress, Nijagal, Dabaspet

"We are happy that our business achievements and social contributions have been recognised with an award. More such programmes should be organised. Recognition strengthens our resolve to give back to society in meaningful ways."
– Y.S. Renukeshwar, Entrepreneur, Farmer and Social Worker, Dabaspet



"I am extremely happy that my small service has been recognised and honoured with this year's VK Excellence Honour by the state's popular daily Vijay Karnataka. This has increased my responsibility further and I will continue to serve society to the best of my ability. Such recognition reminds us that every small effort matters."
– Ganakal nataraju, President, Greater Bangalore Development Authority

"Receiving the award has brought great happiness. Awards motivate us to work harder. Vijay Karnataka is doing commendable work by recognising such achievers. It inspires us to reach higher and contribute more effectively to our communities."
–RajaRajeshwari HarishGowda, Social Worker & Ex-President, APMC, Kolar

"Vijay Karnataka is recognising achievers from various fields and honouring them with awards. It has been continuously identifying those who serve behind the scenes. This award has brought immense joy. Recognition like this reinforces the value of service beyond personal gain."
– Dr Ramesh Babu V.M., Social worker, KGF

"Through various programmes, Vijay Karnataka has earned people's appreciation. In the same way, through the VK Excellence and Honour awards, it is recognising and honouring many achievers. Such initiatives inspire society to celebrate dedication and excellence."
– Dr. T.R. Keshavkumar, Founder Secretary & Principal, Vivekananda International School, Tiptur, Tumakuru

Hybrid wildlife spotted near Gadag forests

A rare and troubling wildlife development has been reported from Gadag, where forest officials have confirmed the presence of naturally occurring hybrid wild cats in grassland forest areas. The finding emerged during a routine wildlife survey, and subsequent verification by forest staff established that the animals are hybrids, marking the second such documented case in Karnataka.

Last year, a hybrid wolf-dog was recorded in the Gajendragad region, raising early concern about emerging cross-breeding trends.

Wildlife researchers link this phenomenon to shrinking forest cover and increasing interaction between wild animals and stray domestic cats and dogs along forest fringes. Experts caution that such hybridisation threatens the genetic integrity of native species like wolves and wild cats.

The hybrid cats show unusual markings, including distinct stripes and white patches on the inner legs and lower face, and are mostly nocturnal and elusive. Conservationists stress that controlling stray animal populations near forests is crucial to prevent further genetic dilution.

Only 45% of audited toilets were fully functional

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

designed to cater to the needs of persons with disabilities. Moreover, in January last year, the Supreme Court of India declared that access to clean, functional, and safe public toilets is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Experts say the city's public toilets are built without planning, run without accountability, and are ignored.

"This audit exposes a system that works on files, not for people. The solution lies in ward-level accountability through functional Area Sabhas, where citizens can monitor services, flag failures, and demand action. Clean and safe public toilets require clear ward-level ownership, regular inspections, transparent contracts, and daily maintenance. There should be time-bound repairs and maintenance through citizen-led oversight," said Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and general secretary, BNP.

The public toilet audit additionally revealed that only 17 of the 38 toilets surveyed are fully functional and usable, while 10.5% are completely non-functional or closed.

"Over 95% of toilets were found inaccessible in practice, with the majority of them having steps, and none equipped with usable ramps. Toilets designated for PwDs were frequently found locked or used as storage, leaving only four facilities, even partially accessible," said Lalithamba BV of BNP.

Many women's facilities were found locked, non-functional, or unhygienic. Only 15% had a female caretaker; CCTV cameras were present in just 7% of the toilets.

Hygiene conditions posed clear public health threats, with 76% of toilets having overflowing or unsegregated waste bins, over 95% lacking proper solid waste segregation and relying on a single open bin for all waste, 40% reporting wet or slippery floors, 28% persistent odour, and none consistently providing soap or hand wash.

Environmental sustainability was absent, with no toilet equipped with solar lighting or rainwater harvesting, all 38 facilities dependent on tanker water, over 80% reporting leakage issues, and 15% showing active water wastage, while fewer than 5% had any water conservation measures in place.

Most toilets followed ad-hoc, non-standard pricing, with only 5% displaying official rate charts. However, none issued receipts, and grievance redressal mechanisms were largely absent.

BNP says equitable access and sustainability across the city's sanitation infrastructure can be ensured only when there is at least one public toilet every 800 metres in high-footfall areas.

Moreover, a quarterly audit on hygiene, safety, and accessibility is also important. Toilets should also transition to solar lighting, rainwater harvesting, and linkages to sewage treatment plants. Additional long-term measures included the creation of women-safe toilets with CCTV surveillance and female caretakers, subject to independent audits.

The survey outcome has been submitted with Greater Bengaluru Authority.

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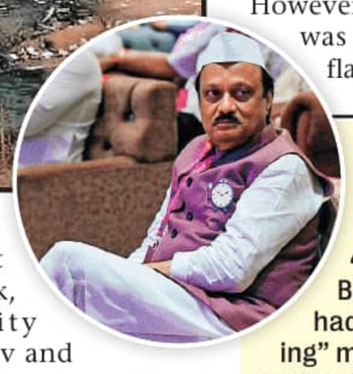
Crash claims Ajit Pawar, 4 others

Learjet crashes near Baramati during second landing attempt



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others were killed on Wednesday when a chartered Learjet aircraft crashed while attempting to land at Baramati airport in Pune district. Pawar (66) was travelling from Mumbai to address multiple rallies in the district ahead of the February 5 zilla parishad elections.

Those killed along with Pawar were Captain Sumit Kapoor, co-pilot Shambhavi Pathak, personal security officer Vidip Jadhav and flight attendant Pinky Mali. The 16-year-old aircraft was operated by VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd.

According to the Civil Aviation Ministry, the aircraft established contact with Baramati air traffic control at 8.18 am after being released by the Pune approach. The crew was informed that winds were calm and visibility was about 3,000 metres. On final approach, the pilots reported that the runway was not in sight and initiated a go-around. Moments later, the crew said "runway in sight" and ATC cleared the aircraft to land at 8.43 am. However, the mandatory readback was not received. At 8.44 am, flames were observed near the runway threshold.

Eyewitnesses said the aircraft appeared unstable, struck the ground hard and exploded, triggering multiple blasts. Wreckage was found on the left side of the runway. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau has launched a probe and will analyse the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder to determine the cause.

Sharad Pawar, founder of the NCP and Ajit Pawar's uncle, termed the incident an accident and urged against politicisation. The death has created a major vacuum in the BJP-led Maharashtra government and cast uncertainty over the future of the NCP led by Ajit Pawar.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several leaders expressed condolences. State mourns, Fadnavis calls ubeliveable. —PTI

K'taka House mourns Maharashtra Deputy CM

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who was killed in a plane crash near Baramati in Pune district. Pawar (66) and four others died when the aircraft crashed while landing as he was travelling from Mumbai to campaign for the February 5 zilla parishad elections. Speaker U T Khader described Pawar as a voice of the poor, farmers and downtrodden, and a respected leader from the cooperative sector. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil and several leaders recalled his accessibility, firm decision-making and long political journey.

Young co-pilot's final goodbye text before crash

Shambhavi Pathak, the co-pilot of the Learjet 45 that crashed near Baramati on Wednesday, had sent a rare "good morning" message to her grandmother in Gwalior shortly before take-off, which became her last communication. The aircraft was carrying Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar when it went down, killing all five onboard, including Captain Sumit Kapoor, flight attendant Pinky Mali and Pawar's PSO Vidip Jadhav. Daughter of retired Air Force pilot Vikram Pathak, Shambhavi studied at Air Force Vidya Bharti School in Gwalior before moving to Delhi. She later trained as a commercial pilot in New Zealand and flew internationally.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Savitha Sudharshan, R/o Malasavara Village Arehalli Hobli Malasavara Post Belur Hassan -573101, Have changed my name to Savitha K H for all purposes.

I, Nandini W/o (Late) Rajashekhar Muchchandi R/o #27,athani Rd, Ramkrishna Nagar, Vijayapura 586108 Karnataka Have Changed My Name To Nandini Rajashekhar Muchchandi for all purposes

I, SANTHOSH, S/o. Babu Rao Korale, Aged about 46 years, residing at 91, 1st floor, Kalegowda Road, Near Water tank, Sachidananda Nagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore 560098. I have changed my name to SANTOSH KORALE vide affidavit dated : 24/01/2026 Before Notary N Sandhya.

LOST: I am Sudhakar Vellore Ramamurthy, R/at #D1902, Purva Palam beach, Elus road, Hanumanthappa layout, Kyala sanahalli, Banglore north PO: Kothanur, Dist: Bengaluru, Karnataka -560077, have lost rectification original deed in the name of Sudhakar Vellore Ramamurthy. Velloore Ramam oorthy Sathikumar & Srimathy Vellore Ramamurthy. Proper ty's in Meenakshi Nagar ttk rk down Hosur tk, Begapalli post, Tamilnadu. Sy: 610/1 Plot no 415.419.420. Document No. 3598/1998, 3606/1998, 3596/1998 the rectification deed registration in sub-register office in hosur. If anybody found please contact 7019016128 or handover to the nearest police station.

I Vasanthamma Bidre Nanjappa W/o K.P. Rajappa Anche R/o No-17, 17th Cross , Magadi Chord Rd, Vijayanagar, B'lore-560040 have changed my name to Vasantha Bidre Nanjappa for all purposes.

I, NAZEERA, W/o. Late Iqbal Shariff, residing at No. 3, Slaughter House, 'C' Street, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051, have changed my name to NAZIRA and my correct date of birth is 01.06.1974, vide affidavit dated 28.01.2026, sworn before notary Mohammed Hussain K, Bengaluru.

I, Damodara Naidu, S/o Narasaiah Naidu Battala, R/at No.528, 9th Cross, Bhuvanesh wari Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560085, here by declare that Damodara Naidu and Damodar both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated: 27.01.2026 sworn before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

I, GOPALA KRISHNA MENON KOTTAYIL THAZATHE VEETIL S/o Padmanaban Pillai R/at Plot No 73 , Pionier Gardeniaa, Pionier Lake Districtt, Gattahalli Huskur P O , Bangalore- 99 have changed my name to GOPALAKRISHNA MENON vide affidavit dated: 28/1/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Arun Shettar, S/o Veerappa Shettar, residing at No. 3196, Prestige Temple Bells, Ideal Homes Layout, RR Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Arun Kumar and Arun Kumar Shettar to Arun Shettar.I further declare that Arun Kumar, Arun Kumar Shettar, and Arun Shettar all refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself.

I, Shivkumar Puttaiah S/O Puttaiah R/o No-90, Venkateshwara Layout, Near BCC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040 have changed my name to Shivakumar Puttaiah for all purposes.

I, DEEPALI JAIN, Residing at No 6, Prestige Lake Vista, Varthur Main Road, Near Shell Petrol Pump, Ramagondanahalli, Bangalore-560066, Have changed my name to JAANVI JAIN vide affidavit dated 28/01/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, RADHIKABEN GOL, R/o 1203, A BLOCK, SUMADHURA SIKHARAM APT, SEEGEHALLI, Bengaluru, 560067, Karnataka, have changed my name from RADHIKABEN GOL to RADHIKABEN MAHENDRABHAI GOL

I, (SNEHLATA DEVI SURANA) W/O (Gyanchand Surana) born on (03/03/1968) R/o (No 131/A, 10th Main, 14th Cross,HSR Layout 6th Sector B'lore – 560102), have changed my name to (SNEH LATA SURANA) vide affidavit dated (21/01/2026) at (Bengaluru)

I, AEIRA DECHAMMA D/o Kongettira Appachu Bopanna R/at No. 1900, 8th Cross, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560075 have changed my name to AEIRA DECHAMMA BOPANNA vide affidavit dated: 28/1/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, RAKSHITA D/O JAYASREENIVASAN R/O 510 11 A Cross 6 Main Road Nithya Motors School Girinagar Girinagar Bengaluru Karnataka - 560085 have changed my name from RAKSHITA to RAKSHITA SANGEETH for all purposes by an affidavit sworn before Public Notary dated 21-01-2026.

I, C. Suresh Babu R/o # No-44, Sai Pearl, 1st Main Road, KR Garden, Murugeshpalya, B'luru- 560017 have changed my minor Son name from Bharath Suresh Babu to Bharath Suresh for all purposes.

I, Netravathi G, w/o Gajendra Reddy, R/o No-230/348, R.M Nagar Main Road, Green Park Layout, Dodda Banaswadi, Bengaluru-560043, Have changed my name to Nethravathi G for all Purposes.

I B JAYAPPA S/O B RAJAPPA, presently residing at Mallasandra, Nadavathi Post, Hoskote Taluku, Bangalorerural, Karnataka-560067, have changed my minor child name from B BABU to BATHEPPA GARI CHANDU for all future purposes

I, Sujatha A D/o Arasappa R/o No.301/30, 11th cross, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru 560027 have changed my minor daughter name from Havishmati A to Vihani Sarika Gowda. Affidavit Dt.28/01/2026 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Naveen Flat #.208, 2nd Floor Excel Golden Enclave Chokkanahalli, Bangalore 560064, I changed the name to Naveen S

I, Pushpa R, R/o No.48, 15th main, 4th block, Nandini Lyt, Bengaluru 560096 have changed my name to Pushpa Manjunath. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

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I, Mohammed Sadathullah Hidayathullah S/o Mohammed Hidayathullah R/o #42,3rd Sage,3rd Block,1st main Basaveshwaranagar B'luru-560079 have changed my name to Mohammed Sadathullah.

I, ABDUL RASOOL BASHA SAHIB, R/a. No.35/5,G Floor, Bazaar Street,Thimmarayappa Garden Road, Neelsandra, Bengaluru-47. I, have Changed my name to BASHA SAHEB, Vide affidavit, dated 27/01/2026 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hassan Bangalore

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS
FEB: 1, 1*, 2** 6, 8*, 11, 12**, 15*, 16, 21, 22* 22**, 26 MAR: 3, 8, 13, 18, 23
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
FEB: 1, 1*, 8*, 11, 15*, 21, 22* MAR: 1*, 2, 8*, 12, 15*, 22, 22*
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
FEB: 9*, 15, 16*, 22, 23*, 30* MAR: 1, 8, 9*, 15, 16*, 22, 23*
KERALA SPECIAL/ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS
FEB: 9*, 15, 16*, 22, 23* MAR: 1, 2*, 8, 9*, 15, 16* 22, 23*, 29
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE
FEB: 2, 16, 23* MAR: 2, 9, 16, 23
SOUTH INDIA 9*/11 DAYS EX: HUBBALLI FEB: 18, MAR: 1, 1* 9*, 12, 19*, 23

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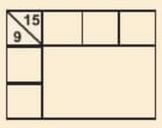
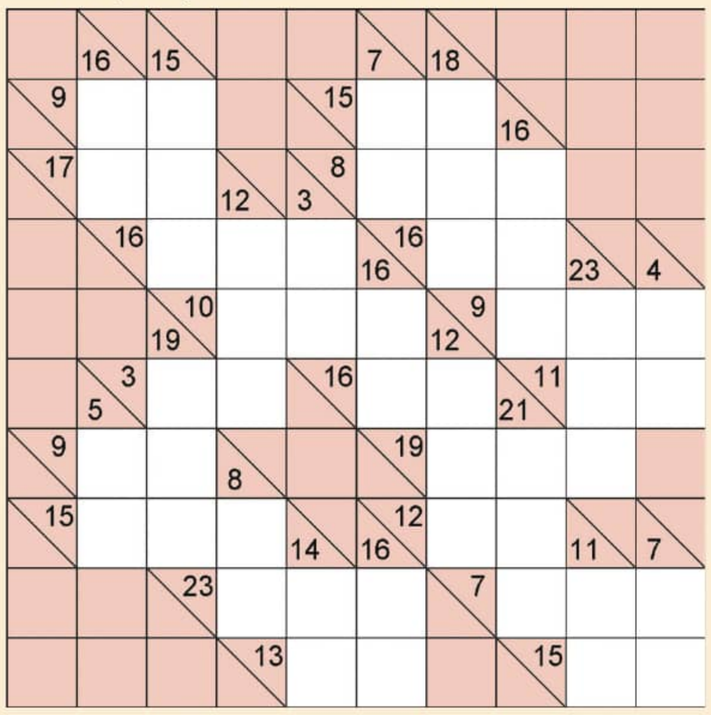
Kakuro

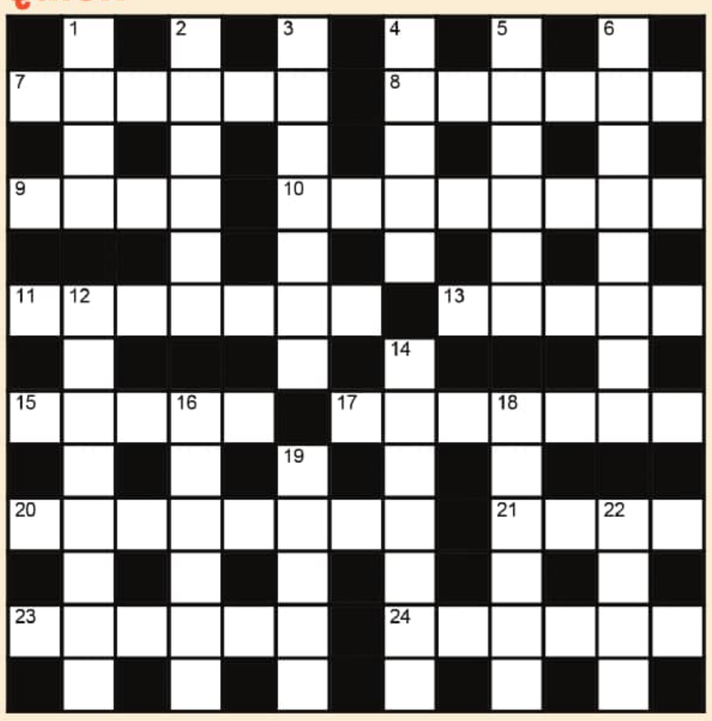
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 U2's "The ___ Tree" (6)
8 ____ Lake: Picnic spot north east of the city. (6)
9 Yank or pull; pluck (4)
10 Domestic employee (8)
11 Venerate (7)
13 Emissary (5)
15 Fraction in tithe (5)
17 Rotted or putrefied (7)
20 Consignment of goods (8)
21 Christmas (4)
23 Cold symptom? (6)
24 Mending or repairing (6)

DOWN

1 Gap (4)
2 ___ back : suppresses emotions, etc? (6)
3 Srinagar locale (7)
4 Delhi's ___ Minar (5)
5 Towards the rear of a ship (6)
6 Sound of constant pitch (8)
12 Jutted out (8)
14 Drive back an attack, etc. (4,3)
16 Surpassed or excelled (6)
18 Extension to hotel (6)
19 Made a catlike sound (5)
22 Ages (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS T

VTJPF KIP QKKY VJ JAHL GQVIPJ VIS XHLHJKF TFKC KNJPF LGVWP RKNQE LVS "H RVIJ JK LPP JAP CVIVZPF."

Linemaro

Do you have a jersey? Because I need your name and number

Mindchow

Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it

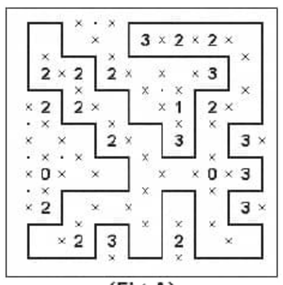
Joke of the day

Do NOT read the next sentence. You little rebel. I like you

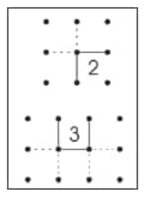
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

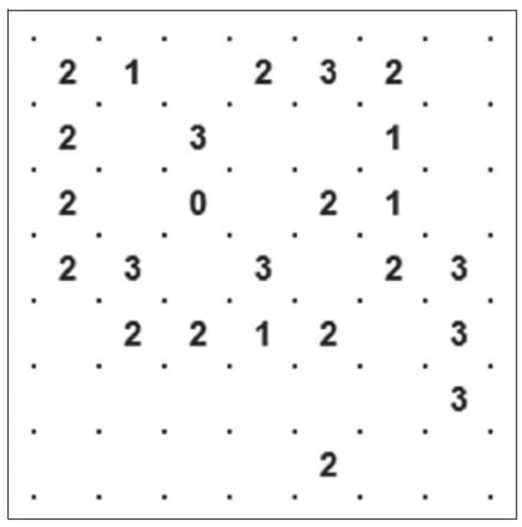


(Fig B) Not Allowed

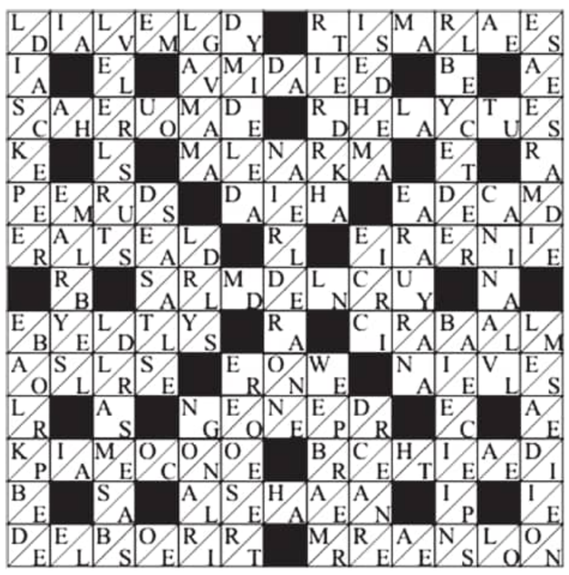
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



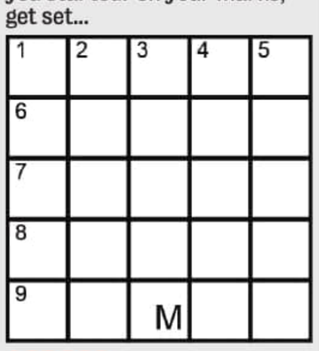
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Loops; 6 Arab a; 7 Ski me; 8 Mause; 9 Admen

DOWN

1 Manas; 2 Priam; 3 Aum OK; 4 So bee; 5 Deals

Mensapuzzle

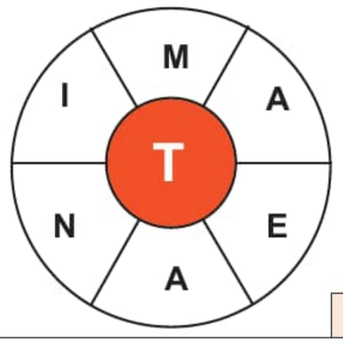
Which number goes in the empty square?

J	F	N
8	4	0

B	G	P
2	2	4

O	D	I
5	4	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7				5		1		
	2		7	6			3	
	3	6					5	
		3	2	1		7		
			9		5			
		9		4	6	5		
	6					9	4	
	8			2	4		1	
		4		8				2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11

5 6 9 9

Medium = 3

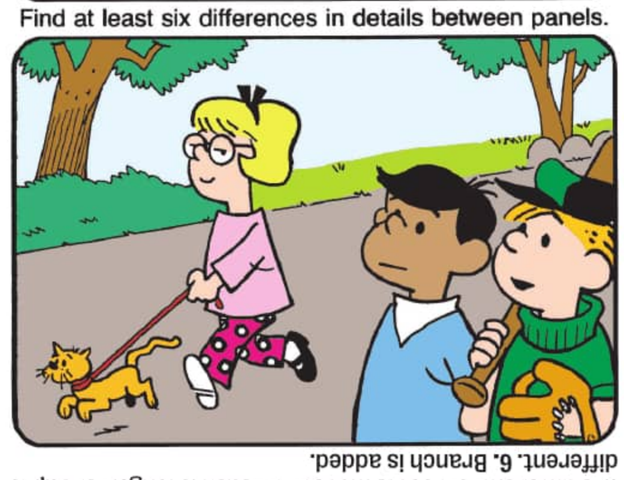
1 3 6 7

Hard = 5

4 6 7 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



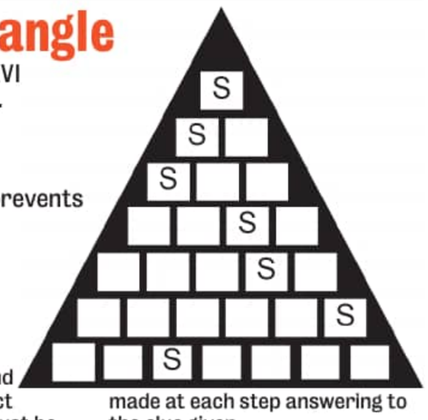
Differences: 1. Girl 's hair is different. 2. Girl's eyes are different. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Leash is longer. 5. Cap is different. 6. Branch is added.

Riddler

Mac's new house number has three digits. When she challenged her friends to guess it, they tried: 135, 780, 785, and 732. "That's amazing," Mac said. "You've each guessed exactly one digit correctly and in its right place!" What is Mac's house number?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number XVI
2 South East, abbr.
3 Collection
4 Everything else
5 Curt
6 Discourages or prevents
7 Mojave and Gobi



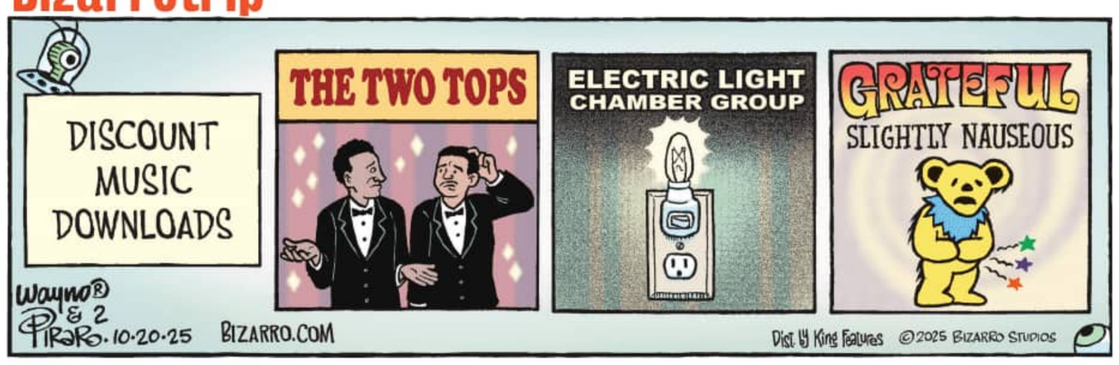
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your year is all about collective action, innovation, and surprising new friendships. Join a group or organisation that aligns with your forward-thinking ideals. A sudden, thrilling opportunity tied to technology or a shared vision is likely. Embrace your unique individuality; it is the catalyst for a major positive shift in your life.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Family gatherings bring warmth and joy. Responsibilities feel manageable with steady focus. Singles experience renewed romantic interest. Children feel healthier. Bonding with parents deepens emotional comfort and harmony today.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Past investments teach useful lessons. Work brings recognition and leadership opportunities. Family harmony strengthens as issues resolve. Promising business contacts reappear. Confidence grows as new responsibilities unfold smoothly.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Romantic possibilities feel exciting today. Productivity increases with clear priorities. Future planning inspires motivation. Avoid impulsive decisions. Positive alignment supports emotional clarity and strong personal progress.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Career transitions unfold smoothly. Family peace strengthens. Purchasing desired items feels favourable. Active routines enhance well-being. Inner balance improves as you embrace supportive habits.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Recognition arrives through dedication. Academic success flows naturally. Family interactions feel harmonious. Open communication eases responsibilities. Positive energy guides you toward meaningful and uplifting experiences today.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Workload demands focus yet brings growth. Home life offers comfort and connection. Self-improvement strengthens confidence. Health and relationships brighten with patient action and honest communication.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Financial progress encourages optimism. Love energy feels supportive. Exciting job opportunities appear. Focus brings success. Taking balanced steps forward aligns you with meaningful goals.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Joy returns as challenges ease. Renewed connections bring comfort. Romantic communication strengthens bonds. Encouraging insights support future decisions. Confidence grows steadily today.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Positive energy uplifts your spirit. New admirers notice you. Couples feel hopeful. Workplace appreciation rises. Family support strengthens plans. Bright momentum carries you forward confidently.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Planning for new beginnings inspires motivation. Domestic decisions feel promising. Creativity guides your progress. Exploring new skills supports future growth. Emotional clarity enhances direction.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Happiness flows easily today. Confidence attracts opportunities. Professional recognition grows. New ventures feel exciting. Students gain clarity about future goals. Inspiration boosts path forward.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Career focus sharpens. Family blessings encourage growth. Travel is best postponed. Spiritual insight deepens understanding. Steady reflection supports meaningful progress and emotional grounding.

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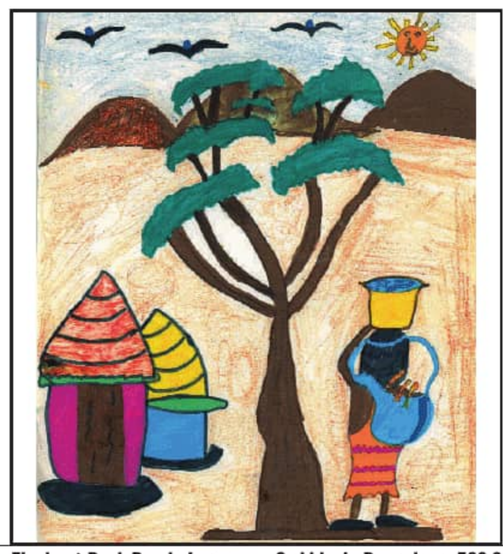
KIDZONE

Akhilesh, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

√[(11 * 4) + 25 + 100] / 13
√(44 + 25 + 100) / 13
√169 / 13
13 / 13 = 1

RIDDLER 182

STRIKE OUT

L	I	V	E	L	Y	■	T	I	A	R	A	S	■	■
■	E	■	A	■	I	D	E	D	■	E	■	■	■	■
C	H	R	O	M	E	■	R	E	A	C	T	S	■	■
K	■	S	■	A	L	A	R	M	■	E	■	A	■	■
E	M	U	S	■	D	I	A	■	A	D	A	M	■	■
R	A	S	E	D	■	L	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	■
■	B	■	A	R	D	E	N	C	Y	■	N	■	■	■
B	E	L	L	Y	■	R	■	C	A	B	A	L	■	■
A	L	L	S	■	R	O	W	■	N	I	L	E	■	■
R	■	A	■	G	O	N	E	R	■	C	■	A	■	■
K	I	M	O	N	O	■	B	E	H	E	A	D	■	■
E	■	A	■	A	S	H	E	N	■	P	■	E	■	■
D	E	S	E	R	T	■	R	E	A	S	O	N	■	■

FAST FIVE

S	P	O	O	L
A	R	A	B	A
M	I	K	E	S
A	M	U	S	E
N	A	M	E	D

QUOTE UNCODE

After one look at this planet any visitor from outer space would say "I want to see the manager."

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

0. In each box, multiply the numerical values of the letters, and write the three-figure result in the lower half.

BULL'S EYE

ANIMATE, ante, emit, inmate, item, mate, meant, meat, mint, mite, neat, tame, team, time, tine

SUDOKU

7	9	8	4	5	3	1	2	6
4	2	5	7	6	1	8	3	9
1	3	6	8	9	2	4	5	7
6	5	3	2	1	8	7	9	4
8	4	1	9	7	5	2	6	3
2	7	9	3	4	6	5	8	1
5	6	2	1	3	7	9	4	8
9	8	7	6	2	4	3	1	5
3	1	4	5	8	9	6	7	2

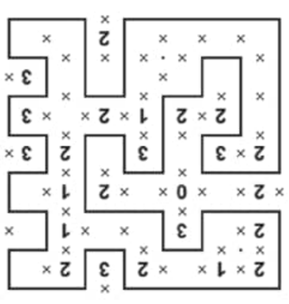
ALPHA TRIANGLE

S, SE, Set, Rest, Terse, Deters, Desserts.

GO FIGURE

Easy
5 + 9 + 6 − 9 = 11
3 + 7 − 6 − 1 = 3
Medium
8 / 4 x 6 − 7 = 5
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Fashion as armour
Ariana Grande reveals her iconic 2018 oversized look was emotional armour during grief, trauma, and survival

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Seven years later

Music director Anup Rubens makes a comeback after seven years with the Kannada film Seetha Payana. He has previously composed for Kannada films such as Kushi Kushiyagi, Ramleela, Seetha Kalyana, and Geetha, and is known for melodious tracks like Arere Maththe Hrudya Haadithu and Ninna Raja Naanu Ninna Rani Naanu.

Two songs from Seetha Payana — Yaavirig Hokkiye Hudugi and Asali Cinema — have already become popular. Anup Rubens recently attended the film's promotional event.

"Initially, I was unsure about meeting the expectations of Action King Arjun Sarja. But soon, we became friends. I thank him for giving me this opportunity. Composing for this project has been a journey. The lead pair has performed well, and the film will be a box-office success," he said.

Anup Rubens has composed for over 80 films, including Telugu hits like Ishq, Prema Kaavaali, Manam, and Gopala Gopala. Seetha Payana stars Niranjan Sudhindra, Aishwarya Arjun, Arjun Sarja, Dhruva Sarja, Prakash Raj, Sathyaraj, and Kovai Sarala, and is set for a five-language release on February 14.

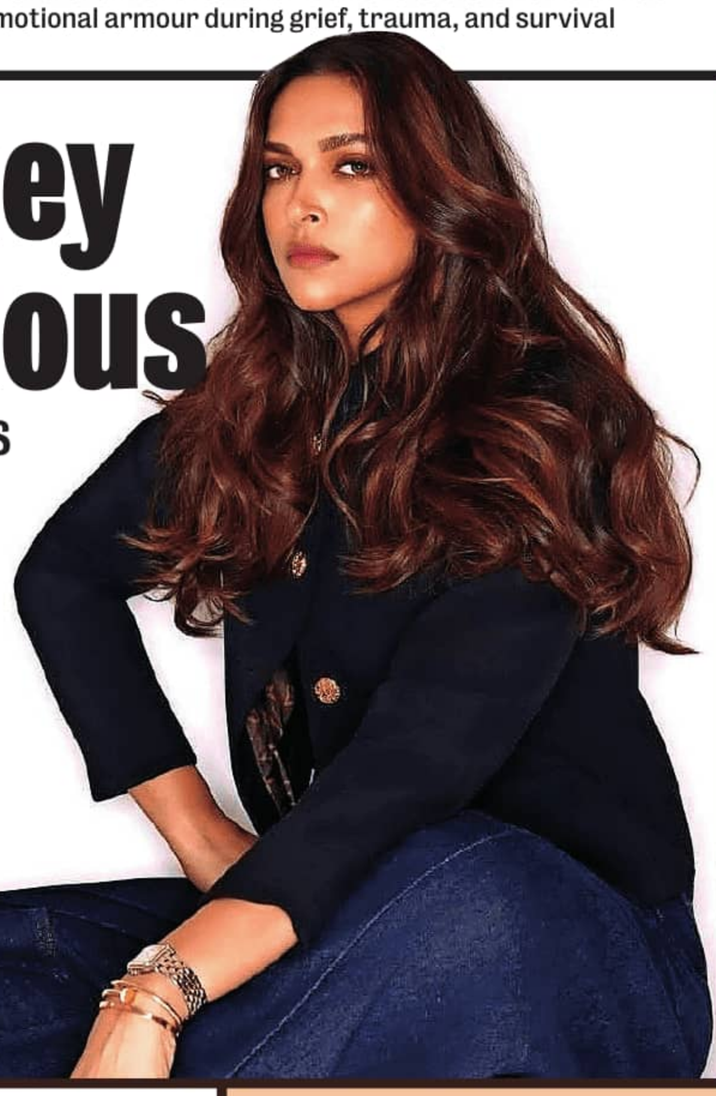
Cinema manifested

Dr Vaishak J Gowda makes his debut as a producer in Sandalwood with the Kannada film 666 Operation Dream Theater. The film, featuring Dr Shivarajkumar and Daali Dhananjaya in key roles, is helmed by Hemanth M Rao.

Dr Vaishak J Gowda said he was happy to support 666 Operation Dream Theater. "I am a huge fan of Annavru's Operation 999 series, and I was instantly drawn to the genre. The film is strong on emotions, which is something I connected with deeply. The way the story blends mystery and emotion is what enticed me to be a part of the project," he said. Calling the film humongous, Dr Vaishak said he invested heart, soul, time, and money, and it deserves nothing less. On assembling Dr Shivarajkumar, Dhananjaya, and director Hemanth M Rao. He added that Dhananjaya's passion for meaningful cinema completes a trio destined to bring his first project to life.

Before they were famous

From blink-and-miss roles to background dancers, how Bollywood stars began their journeys

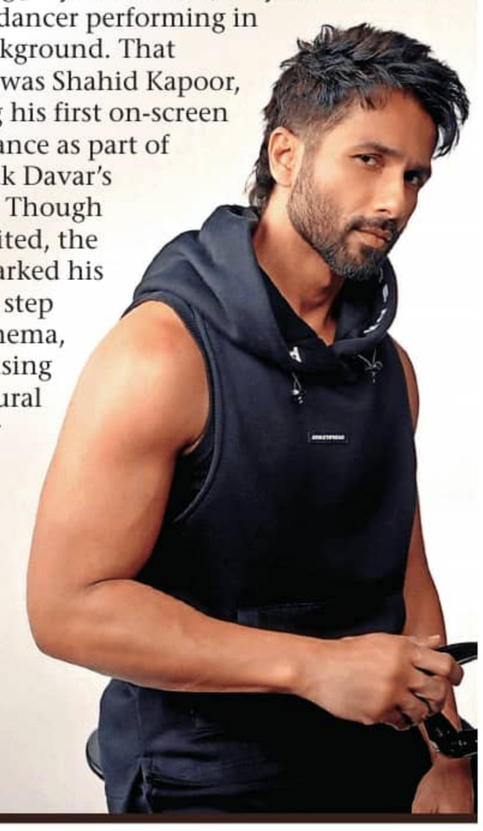


Deepika Padukone

Before becoming a household name with her debut opposite Shah Rukh Khan in Om Shanti Om, Deepika Padukone was primarily known as a model. The actress appeared in Himesh Reshammiya's popular 2006 music video Naam Hai Tera from his album Aap Kaa Surroor.

Shahid Kapoor

When audiences were mesmerised by Aishwarya Rai's performance in Kahin Aag Lage Lag Jaaye from Taal, very few noticed a young dancer performing in the background. That dancer was Shahid Kapoor, making his first on-screen appearance as part of Shaimak Davar's troupe. Though uncredited, the film marked his earliest step into cinema, showcasing his natural flair for dance.



Irrfan Khan

Long before earning acclaim for Haasil, the late actor Irrfan Khan had already appeared on the big screen in a minor role in the Oscar-nominated Salaam Bombay! In the film, he portrayed a man who earns money by writing letters — a small yet telling glimpse of the talent that would later redefine parallel and mainstream cinema alike.

Shreyas Talpade

Prior to winning praise for Iqbal, Shreyas Talpade featured in a blink-and-you-miss-it role in Aankhen. He played a tea seller at a railway station in a scene involving Amitabh Bachchan and Paresh Rawal. Though minor, the appearance formed part of his gradual climb towards more substantial roles.

Mithun Chakraborty

Few actors have enjoyed a career as long and varied as Mithun Chakraborty's. Before finding his footing in films, his life could have taken a very different turn altogether. Even after entering the industry, success did not come instantly, and he spent years navigating smaller roles and struggles before establishing himself as a leading star.

Off camera pain

Over a career spanning two decades, Emraan Hashmi has portrayed a wide range of characters, from intense lovers to anti-heroes and resilient survivors. While his on-screen roles allowed him to prepare thoroughly, nothing could have prepared him for what unfolded off screen. In 2014, one afternoon changed his world, forcing him to view success, control and certainty in an entirely new light.

In a recent interview, Emraan Hashmi spoke about the most painful period of his life — the moment he discovered that his young son, Ayaan, had cancer. That experience continues to shape who he is today, not as a star, but as a father.

Emraan Hashmi recalls the day everything changed

The actor opened up about one of the most heartbreaking moments of his life — the day his world changed forever. He recalled how a seemingly ordinary afternoon turned into every parent's worst nightmare. Speaking to Ranveer Allahbadia, Emraan said, "The most difficult phase of my life was when my son fell ill in 2014. I can't even express in words what that phase was like. It lasted for five years.

"My life changed in one afternoon. On January 13, we went for brunch. We were eating pizza when the first symptom appeared. My son passed blood in his urine. Within the next three hours, we were in a doctor's clinic. The doctor told us that our son had cancer and would need surgery the next day, followed by chemotherapy. My entire world flipped in a matter of 12 hours."

Emraan Hashmi shares lessons learned from pain

Emraan Hashmi said what made that period even harder was that life had finally begun to feel stable again. Everything seemed to be falling into place before it suddenly changed. "There comes a high point in your life when you feel you finally have a grip on things. Then suddenly, you get kicked in the face. It happens," he said.

The next five years were marked by hospital visits, treatments and constant anxiety. Emraan has said those years taught him what truly matters — being present, patient and grateful. The experience also inspired him to write a book to support parents going through similar struggles. Now that his son is healthy and doing well, Emraan looks back on that time as the most difficult yet transformative phase of his life.

Emraan Hashmi's latest work

On the professional front, Emraan Hashmi is currently receiving praise for his performance in the latest series Taskaree. **—ETimes**